

Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Orono Intermediate School is truly a model of educational success, where students are advancing to a new phase in their educational experience. Exercising higher levels of responsibility and independence in their learning, students achieve within a challenging and caring environment. The dedicated staff at Orono work closely with students to foster personal and academic success. The staff are committed to providing students with rigorous academic curricula that challenge them to achieve higher standards. To this end, staff strive to develop an educational program that addresses each child's individual needs and allows all students to achieve to their full potential.

Orono Intermediate School is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, NCA. Accreditation is granted to schools that demonstrate a commitment to continued improvement and curriculum review.

Orono Intermediate School enhances educational opportunities through a variety of programs and policies, including: a concentration on small class sizes, field trips, computer/media labs, an aquatics program, a United Nations peace site, competitive academic teams, an artist-in-residence program, service learning projects, and world languages, taught before and after school.

The success of Orono Intermediate School is reflected in its test scores. In 2005, Orono Intermediate received five stars in both math and reading from the Minnesota Department of Education. In 2004, the school received four stars in math and five stars in reading.

Much of the credit for Orono Intermediate School's success belongs to its principal, Paula Martin, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Orono Intermediate School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Orono Intermediate School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Orono Intermediate School in Orono for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

#### IN MEMORY OF SIGMUND STROCHILTZ

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I speak in memory of Sigmund Strochiltz, a truly remarkable man from New London, Connecticut who passed away on Monday October 16, at the age of 89. I was saddened to hear about Mr. Strochiltz's death, and I will keep his friends and family in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Strochiltz was best known as the owner of Whaling City Ford, a successful car dealership that became a local institution in New London. Almost anyone who has lived in southeastern Connecticut can recall the television commercials for his dealership, in which Mr. Strochiltz would pleasantly invite the viewer to "Come in. I would like to meet you," a simple slogan that reflected his pleasant demeanor and truly optimistic outlook on life. Those who knew him best say that he had a deep appreciation for the simple joys in life, like dining with friends or spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Strochiltz's optimism is incredible considering the horrors he had to endure early in life. Mr. Strochiltz grew up in Poland, where he lived through both world wars. During the Second World War, he was held in a concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland, for over 15 months. During this truly horrible experience, Mr. Strochiltz was forced to watch as his parents, two sisters, his first wife, and countless others marched off to their deaths.

Yet Mr. Strochiltz's spirit could not be broken, and he refused to give up hope that the people of all nations could live together in peace. After being released, he was determined to ensure that no one else ever had to suffer as he had.

Mr. Strochiltz believed that if mankind was never allowed to forget the atrocities committed by the Nazi regime, such atrocities might never be repeated. He worked tirelessly toward this end. He served on the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Council, which worked to establish the National Holocaust Memorial and Museum. He served as chairman of the council's remembrance committee, where he lobbied the governments of every State and the District of Columbia to hold annual ceremonies to remember victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

In addition to his great work with the council, Mr. Strochiltz helped elevate the writer Elie Wiesel, a close friend of his, to international fame. The two were partners in their mission to make sure the world never forgot the evils of the Holocaust. Together they traveled the globe, meeting with world leaders, such as German Chancellor Helmut Schmitt and Pope John Paul II. Mr. Strochiltz also lobbied Capitol Hill to have Mr. Wiesel nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; he was successful, and Mr. Wiesel was deservedly awarded the prize.

The passing of Sigmund Strochiltz is truly a loss for the people of Connecticut and throughout the world. May his kind nature and devotion to promoting peace and tolerance in the world live on in all those he has touched.●

#### RECOGNIZING EARL MCVICKER

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I congratulate a Kansan, and a friend,

Earl McVicker, whose hard work, perseverance, and dedication has earned him recognition by those in his profession. Last month, Earl, who started his banking career at a bank in a town of 400, was elected chairman of the American Bankers Association. I join his friends, family, and colleagues in extending my congratulations and best wishes to him during the upcoming year.

Earl's career in the banking industry began shortly after his graduation from Kansas State University, home of the always optimistic and fighting Wildcats. Although Earl earned an engineering degree from K-State, he had taken a few business classes and a course on rural banking, which captured his interest. His first job was at the Bazine State Bank. Earl worked hard, learning the banking business from the ground up. His strong work ethic paid off, and he rose steadily in the banking industry, moving on to banks in Colorado and Kansas before becoming CEO of Central Bank and Trust, in Hutchinson, KS. By this time, Earl was looking for more than just another job at another bank. He was looking for the opportunity to make policy decisions, and he knew the only way to achieve that was to buy a bank.

Well, Earl succeeded in this goal, in part, by doing something we should all take a lesson from. When he became CEO at CB&T, he made the decision that he would continue to live off the amount of his previous salary and save and invest the difference in order to buy CB&T stock. This self-discipline, along with some help from his parents and a loan from another bank, allowed Earl to continue buying stock in CB&T, eventually gaining majority ownership. Further, the loan that he took out, that he hoped to pay off in 10 years? He paid it off in 5. Earl acknowledges that he risked everything on this one venture, but it is certainly a risk that has paid off.

Perhaps the quote that Earl has framed and hanging in his office best sums up what guides him. The quote, by President Calvin Coolidge, reads: "Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

Earl's own hard work, persistence, and willingness to take risks gives him an understanding and an empathy for people who are looking to start and own their own business. His commitment to promoting entrepreneurship, his willingness to help individuals start a business, and his ability to recognize the potential of these individuals, even those who may not have business experience, makes him unique and reminds us all of the important role hometown